

SPORTS



Bill Psota and the team after a recent win.

wrestlers hurt by injuries

by STU LEVINE

The wrestling team, coached by Mr. Procopio, has had a season that can be summed up in one word—injuries. Nine members of the team are, or have been, out due to injuries acquired either through wrestling or through other unrelated activities. The list of those who have missed action due to injuries include: Co-Captain Mark Petruzzello (thumb), Alex Costas (elbow), Dan Benedetto (back), Gordon MacPherson (shoulder), Ron Guerra (neck), Glen Judge and Bill Psota (both ankle), Ted Williams (knee) and Tom Zaryicki (kidney). The team members feel that they have lost a few

matches they should have won. Indian Hills and Pascack Valley were cited as the two that were most disappointing. They also felt they have been hurt by a lack of depth. "We were strong in a lot of places but had nobody to back them up," stated one senior member. Another senior claimed, "The team has had a lot of injuries and sickness. The J. V. guys have been coming through for us. If more people came out, Highlands wrestling would be a lot better." He also felt that the team could be a lot better if they would get more coaches, "Mr. Longdo works hard,

live on Saturday Night it's...

by MELANIE SHEIP

A year ago, Americans watched in awe as the U. S. Hockey Team became the winner of the gold medal in Lake Placid. Ice hockey has since gained popularity and interest throughout the country. Yet for one dedicated group of students at Highlands, ice hockey was already a part of their lives, and had been for over four years. During seventh and eighth grade, a group of Upper Saddle River boys who are now seniors began organizing ice hockey games, playing on ponds after school and on weekends. Since some had participated in leagues at Sport-O-Rama, they decided to rent out the rink and try hockey with real nets and boards. Organized by Rich VanAntwerp, Larry Bolsch, Jeff Miller, and Mark Ledlow, the cost was \$120-165--about \$10 per per-

son--for two and a half hours on a Saturday night. This became a tradition and the boys played indoors three or four times a year. The teams are usually composed of ten to twelve players each; light jerseys combat dark jerseys. Goalies include Neal Personeus and Bill Smith. As protection they wear helmets, face masks, and mouth guards. During one game, senior Danny Halik broke three ribs, but played courageously on until the end of the game. When asked about the hockey games, Larry Bolsch and Rich Van Antwerp recalled, "Once we challenged some kids from Woodridge. We made up an all-star team, and played them twice at Bergen Mall, beating them 10-3 and 14-7. We were all sophomores, and they were juniors and seniors. It was the best game we

ever played." The team arrives on the ice at nine or ten o'clock. They go to the locker rooms and get dressed around ten-thirty. There is also access to the score board and public address system. The most recent game took place on December 15, when a group of upperclassmen used the Sport-O-Rama rink. Announcer John Alge amused the small audience with his version of the National Anthem and a comical play-by-play account of the game until the microphone broke. Referees were John Alimo and Allen Romano. The "home team" defeated the "visitors" by a margin of 13-1. Most of the players are looking forward to intra-mural ice hockey in college. All agree that "the main idea is for everyone involved to have a fun time".

but he has too much to do. He can't get her until after practice starts because he's busy with music." Assistant Coach Dennis Percevez who the team feels has been very helpful, commented, "We've done pretty well considering injuries. We could have done better but a couple of guys didn't come through. The record doesn't show the type of team we've got." The wrestlers are all looking forward to the districts where they hope to have a healthy and strong team so they can show that they are better than a 6-6 team.



Senior Dave Dubois on a tipoff

SHOOTING STARS for Highlands

by ROB SCHWARZ

Although they have a 3-8 record, the boys' basketball team has been in every game. "We're looking for consistency," Coach Paul Palek stated. "It's a very difficult league and we have the ability to win." When Coach Palek was asked to reflect back to the best game the team played, he remembered losing to Wayne Hills by only 2 points. Wayne Hills has only one loss on the season. Now meet the players, as observed by Coach Palek: Rob Strauss—team leader during games, steady, shoots well Bruce Blake—team leader, plays hard, is a good rebounder Andy Welter—talented player

with athletic ability in all phases of the game, must strive for consistency Barry Rabinowitz—excellent offensive player, has been a big help Jimi White—excellent future, improves every game, has all the skills Rudy Salas—an excellent sixth man, very intense, good rebounder, plays hard all the time Dave DuPois—excellent team player, rebounds, plays good defense George Pitlack—good team player, practices hard, best when running the fast break Dave Leshinsky—hard worker who plays offense very well "The team is working for improvement," Coach Palek finally commented.

FROZEN IN THEIR TRACKS

by STEVE BERGEMAN

Every day after school the members of the winter track team brave the frigid weather and prepare for meets. The team this year has been plagued by the weather. Several meets have been cancelled due to snow. This doesn't stop the team from practicing though. They did participate in a league meet which, unofficially, they won. The strongest performances were by the distance corps. Dave Marshall edged Rich Harfst for victory in the 1500 as John Clements led Brian Nagel, Chris Hinnant, and Pete McGill in a Highlands sweep of the 3000. Senior sprinters Mark Malias and Rich Van Antwerp also did well. Craig Granowitz and Kenny Gilbert added a third and a fourth in the 800 and 1500 respectively.



l. to r. Pete McGill, Brian Nagel, John Beattie, Craig Granowitz, Ken Gilbert and John Dobias warm up for the workout.

A Distance Medley team of Harfst, Marshall and Clements along with Stu Levine placed sixth in the state relays. The first three combined with Chris Hinnant a week later to take third (Highlands only medals) in the Paramus Catholic Relays. As with the boys the distance races are the strong point for the girls. Katie Curran won the 1500 in the league meet. Carol Ann Alvarez and Julie Craig also ran well that day. Sprinters/hurdlers Chris Larsen and Abbie Hoag are also strong runners. Coach Sok had this to say about the team: "We are doing well so far and hope to continue to do well for the remainder of the season. They are dedicated, hard working kids."

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